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EAST GERMANY/VP-3EE Mission, Russian Advisers, Schools and Depots, Relations with VP GRANEE

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VP-3EE has been given a defensive roll by the Russians as evidenced by ship construction programs and war games. Russian advisers were present at VP-3EE units. They only made recommendations but followed closely the activities of the VP-3EE. Naval schools known [] are listed along with storage depots. At present VP-GRANEE does not come under VP-3EE. It is believed that in the near future VP-GRANEE will be dissolved.

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1. Mission.

VP-3EE is a pure defense force with corresponding tasks ("Aufgaben"). So-called "Planspiele" (strategical games) have been conducted at VP-3EE headquarters almost once every month for some years with many VP-3EE officers participating. A favorite situation was that VP-3EE forces had to sail from ODER and PENE River mouths and land troops to the rear of enemy forces invading SOVLOHE territory from the west. Development and construction of FORALLE and HAI classes were to be speeded up as they were to be the backbone of present SOVLOHE naval forces. Ships of destroyer size and bigger have always been forbidden to the VP-3EE by the Russians. Designing and developing the 2 LABO classes (landing craft) had priority since early 1956 though this project had only become known in November/December 1955. I.S.F. chief KLESITA believed they were not for VP-3EE but for the USSR instead. Requirements had not been specified clearly enough and, above all, I.S.F. had not obtained any data on tanks to be ferried by them.

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14 June 1956

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2. Russian interference.a. Advisers.

There were a number of Russian advisers, officially called "Berater", in ROSTOCK VP-SM headquarters building and with individual VP-SM units (squadrons and shore establishments). They were Russian naval officers a few of whom wore Russian naval uniforms, but the majority wore VP-SM uniforms. All of them spoke German. These advisers never made any decisions and never ordered anything. They only made recommendations to VP-SM officers. Their recommendations were not specific and their interpretation was left completely to the VP-SM officers. VP-SM chief Admiral VARNER also had a Russian Admiral as an adviser who also only recommended to VARNER.

b. "Technisch-taktische Aufgabenstellung".

This was the technical term for any Russian demand to VP-SM headquarters at ROSTOCK concerning the design of a new class of ships. It contained a very general outline of what type ship the Russians wanted and did not disclose how similar ships in the Russian Navy looked. VP-SM personnel concerned had enough leeway to let the Russians know their thoughts concerning it. VP-SM headquarters reforwarded "Technisch-taktische Aufgabenstellung" to their designing office, 131 at "Glas" asking them to submit a preliminary draft called "Typskizze". This was discussed at VP-SM headquarters between VP-SM officers, concerned and their Russian advisers who made recommendations. Upon return of "Typskizze" together with Russian recommendations (alterations), I.C.S. prepared and added a draft called "Vorprojekt". This came very close to the final design of the ship-class concerned and was also submitted to VP-SM headquarters where it was discussed like the "Typskizze". Upon return of "Vorprojekt" together with new Russian recommendations (alterations), I.C.S. prepared a final draft called "Technisches Projekt". Procedure at VP-SM headquarters was as before. However, 1 copy of "Technisches Projekt" had to be sent to MOSCOW for approval. Construction of the new class of ships was not to begin before MOSCOW had approved "Technisches Projekt". However, VP-SM usually started building the new class of ships concerned before receiving MOSCOW's approval. Sometimes, the final draft had to be altered again in accordance with changes recommended by MOSCOW through their Admiral advising VP-SM Admiral VARNER. Even these MOSCOW alterations were not clearly expressed and it was always left to VP-SM officers and engineers concerned as to how to make the alterations. Another complication was the fact that VP-SM shipbuilding department never knew beforehand what type of guns would be mounted in any new ship-class as the guns were sent from the USSR to the shipyard in question without advance notice.

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3. Naval schools.

The existence of the following naval schools had become known [redacted] line-officer candidate school SCHWABENMECHANIE in STRALUND, line-officer [redacted]

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14 June 1956

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officer candidate school in PAROW, engineering-officer candidate school in KUEHLBURGBORN. A petty-officer (engineering) candidate school was [] to be likewise accommodated in above KUEHLBURGBORN naval barracks. A radio-communications school was [] to be accommodated in above BONNEDENSCHAUZE naval barracks because of the unusual amount of antennas noticed [] in the site. A naval artillery school was [] to be accommodated in above PAROW naval barracks because of an extra building on the site equipped with several guns for gunnery training. One of these guns was mounted on a SCHLINGERSTAND (rolling stand?) The latter had been installed in 1954/55 and was hydraulically operated. VP-SSE recruits received boat training in the above PAROW KUEHLBURGBORN naval barracks compound. [] no other VP-SSE schools existed.

4. Storage depots.

[] never heard of any VP-SSE depots other than WOLGAST and PAROW. It is not known how many other depots there are. WOLGAST depot had the number 12.

a. WOLGAST depot.

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Whenever SOVZONE firms had to ship items to VP-SSE, they always used the shipping address "L.V.L. 12, WOLGAST". Thence, items concerned were reforwarded to their final VP-SSE destinations. It is assumed that the WOLGAST depot was used for general shipboard and personnel equipment such as lifeboats, rafts, diesel engines ranging between 10 to 20 and 300 HP, rubber boots, signal ammunition (the latter kept in a special above-ground pen), etc. An alleged ammunition storage in the OCHSENBERG on PERNE River eastbank opposite WOLGAST depot []

b. PAROW depot.

Another smaller depot existed in PAROW where large amounts of electrical and radio-communications equipment were kept.

5. VP-GRENKE.

VP-GRENKE's mission was "coast protection" exclusively. Naval craft of VP-GRENKE were not under VP-SSE command and did not co-operate with VP-SSE craft. Their fleet numbered about 12 ES boats. This will be reinforced by about 6 TUMBLER-class units to be transferred from VP-SSE sometime in 1956. No craft have been built for VP-GRENKE since 1953. Since then they have received only old VP-SSE craft. VP-SSE's Admiral VERNER was anxious to take over the mission of VP-GRENKE and it is believed that the fleet of VP-GRENKE will be dissolved before long. The term GRENKEPOLIARISSE was not known []

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-3-

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